

# PROMISE news

## OUR MOTHER'S HOUSE

We are pleased to announce the opening of Our Mother's House in Portland. This project of Global Health Promise is focused on providing services to prostituted mothers and their children.

Our Mother's House is open every Saturday evening from 6-9 pm. Volunteers will provide referrals, a good meal, and support to these vulnerable women. Please visit the weblog site at [www.ourmothershouse.org](http://www.ourmothershouse.org).

We are grateful for the help of Lis Saunders and many others who worked so hard to get Our Mother's House started and keep it going.

Jeri Williams, a survivor, is the Advisor to Our Mother's House and has helped us with training volunteers along with Dr. Michael Smith of The Salvation Army and colleagues from the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC).

We also greatly appreciate the donation every week of delicious food from St. Honoré Boulangerie. Many of the women have said this is the best meal they

have had in a long time. If you are in Portland or Lake Oswego, please stop by St. Honoré and thank owner Dominique Geulin for the support and Kerry (at the Portland location) for her help every week. <http://www.sainthonorebakery.com/>

Support is also coming from Jim and Patty's Coffee. Patty came and joined volunteer Jenny Pixler in a concert for the women one night and they have sent some of their delicious baked goods for the women too. Jim and Patty also threw a very successful fund raiser for Our Mother's House on August 8th. <http://www.jimandpattys.com/> They raised \$378 from ice cream sundays in just two hours. This will greatly help us with materials we need.

News, events and other information is provided on the website, and you can email [ourmothershouse@gmail.com](mailto:ourmothershouse@gmail.com) to sign up to volunteer, offer services, or find out more information. We look forward to reporting more about Our Mother's House in the future.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Our Mother's House website. At the top, it says "OUR MOTHER'S HOUSE" in large teal letters, followed by the tagline "Connecting prostituted mothers and their children to services that benefit their families." Below this, there is a yellow banner with the address: "Our Mother's House entrance on 6th Street next to Star Theater. More information is available by emailing [ourmothershouse@gmail.com](mailto:ourmothershouse@gmail.com)." The main content area features a video player with the title "Front Lines of Trafficking" and "Global Health Promise". The video player shows a woman and a child. To the left of the video player, there are navigation links for "PTLD'S SEEDY SIDE | DAN RATHER REPORTS" and "AMERICAN AIRLINES | SANDRA FIORINI".

## NEW WEBSITE!

Global Health Promise has grown and changed in the past years, and we are excited to announce the development of a brand new website to reflect all the progress we have made as an organization and to better serve those who support our mission. Before the end of the year, we will launch our new site...stay tuned! Many thanks to Cody Matteucci of [InnovationConsultingGroup.com](http://InnovationConsultingGroup.com) and Caitlin Loos of [caitlin.e.loos](mailto:caitlin.e.loos) marketing for taking on this exciting project. Andrew Harrison, designer of our current website, is moving on in his career. Thank you, Andrew for all your support!

## THAILAND/INDIA TRIP

In February, Katherine traveled to Thailand and India to visit and consult at various counter-trafficking organizations. Among such organizations there is a growing sense of need for more robust attention to the health consequences of trafficking. Usually this is in the context of how to address the needs of survivors in after-care shelters. The needs range from nutritional deficiencies, caring for chronic problems such as asthma, screening for sexually transmitted diseases, and complex mental/emotional problems. Katherine was able to meet with large and small groups, rural and urban – helping to develop plans for medical care as well as outreach questions in order to help the organizations learn more about the specific problems prostituted mothers and/or children are facing in their specific situations. A lot of potential for future projects here was sown and we are looking forward to developing these over the coming months.



## UPCOMING PROJECTS

Katherine will be traveling back to the States in November to speak at a couple of conferences and Grand Rounds at her residency alma mater: The Children's Hospital of Alabama.

## BRIAN'S SPOT

In June and July Brian traveled to Bangladesh and Kathmandu. In Bangladesh he worked with Dr. Ian Hodgson and Save the Children USA and interviewed mothers who are in prostitution about their situations and that of their children. Brian conducted focus group discussions in three cities. We hope to build on this work for another project with Save the Children USA.



In Kathmandu, Brian met with representatives of Caritas Nepal and Aids Info Docu Nepal regarding a project to open three drop in centers for children of prostituted mothers. This is a very important issue as the mothers do not have a safe place for their children, many of whom get hurt or die when they are left alone. The immediate priority is to protect the children while the long-term goal is to help both the children and their mothers to find safety and alternative income. At this point, most of the mothers cannot think of any way out of their situation: they are just trying to survive and keep their children safe. Once we provide for the safety of the children we can help the mothers start exploring other options for themselves.